KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

Technical considerations in using
the September 19, 2002 Release of
Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS)
Kentucky Core Content Test
Content Area Indexes
1999 to 2002

NOTE: The information contained on the files for the Accountability Cycle 2002, School and
District Content Area Indexes is embargoed from release until 10:00 a.m. EDT on September
19, 2002.

GENERAL INFORMATION and CHANGES

This document is best viewed using a non-proportional font like Courier New. The documentation
is designed to be viewed and printed in a Portrait aspect using 8pt text.

The information provided is "PRELIMINARY". Schools are reviewing student results and will have
the opportunity to correct discrepancies.

The files and reports provide results for Schools and Districts. Summary records by Region and
State are provided at the end of the files.

Joint Schools are school(s) combined with another school for accountability purposes because the
school does not contain both a 4th and 5th grade or both a 7th and 8th grade. Each Joint School
has a combined record and an individual school record for the schools that comprise the Joint
School. The file layouts contain non-reported control fields to assist in sorting, merging
and reporting of the Joint Schools.

CONTENTS

This file contains several sections describing the Kentucky Core Content Test, a component of the
Commonwealth Accountability Testing System. The files show School, District, Region and State
Academic Index results by content area for the Accountability Cycle 2002.

Section headings follow:

1.   CHANGES IN SCHOOL SCORES
2.   MODEL LAB
3.   SCHOOLS NOT INCLUDED IN DATA SUMMARY
4.   REGIONAL AND STATE SUMMARY DATA
5.   SCHOOLS WITH NO ACCOUNTABILITY GRADES
6.   REPORT PRINT FILES
7.   DATABASE FILES
8.   COMMA SEPERATED FILES
9.   TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

1. CHANGES IN SCHOOL DATA

The results contained on the diskette reflect the performance of schools and districts starting
with the Spring 1999 test. Although some new schools have been opened, and other schools have
closed, results are reported only for schools that were open at the end of the 2001-2002 school
year.

2. MODEL LAB

MODEL LAB ELEMENTARY (606450), MODEL LAB MIDDLE SCHOOL (606455), and MODEL LAB HIGH SCHOOL
(606460) are not included in Madison County Totals at the request of the county and the school in
recognition of Model Lab's special relationship with Eastern Kentucky University. However, since
these schools are technically public schools under the governance of the Madison County Board of
Education, the schools are included within the accountability system and school indices are
therefore calculated.

3. SCHOOLS NOT INCLUDED IN DATA SUMMARY

This data summary includes only schools that are under the governance of a local board of education. Excluded from this summary are the federally dependent schools at Fort Knox and Fort Campbell and the two schools operated by the State Department of Education, the Kentucky School for the Deaf and the Kentucky School for the Blind.

4. REGIONAL AND STATE SUMMARY DATA

This data release treats each region and the state as if they were individual units and the data is aggregated or summed as is done with individual schools or districts. Index calculations are based on this aggregation of the data. For example, the reading index for a particular region is no longer the weighted average of the schools from within the region, but a calculation based on the total number of students (converted to percents). As is the case for a typical school or istrict, the reading index would be the sum of:

```
  0 * percent Novice non-performance  +
 13 * percent Novice medium  +
 26 * percent Novice high  +
 40 * percent Apprentice low  +
 60 * percent Apprentice medium  +
 80 * percent Apprentice high  +
100 * percent Proficient  +
140 * percent Distinguished.
```

5. SCHOOLS WITH NO ACCOUNTABILITY GRADES

Some schools have no grade at which accountability assessment occurs grades EP (3), 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12). Schools with no accountability grade will share the accountability results of the schools into which they promote their students. These schools are not included on the printed report or on the databases.

6. REPORT PRINT FILES

This diskette contains three print files in WORD 6.0/95 format and identical files in Rich Text format. The files are grade specific and have the file names PRS0205 (.rtf or .doc) {grade 4/5 schools and districts}, PRS0208 {grade 7/8 schools and districts}, and PRS0212 grades 10/11/12 schools and districts}. The files are formatted using Microsoft OFFICE 2000 and saved in a format acceptable to WORD 6.0/95 format. To view the document, change to a landscape viewing format and use a non-proportional font like Courier New, size 8. You may have to make other formatting changes as well.

The files contain field header and footer information. Unfortunately, word processors from different manufactures running on different computer platforms are not 100% compatible. If you are unsuccessful in converting the footnote information please use the following text which is to appear at the bottom of each page:

```
    NOTE:
       a = School's service area changed.  The school is held accountable through the district
            accountability scores.
       c = School is accountable though school's scores and district non-academic data for the
            baseline years 1998-1999 and 1999-2000.
       d = School is a reconfigured.  The school is held accountable through school results
            and district growth line, district assistance line, and district novice reduction
            rate.
       r = School is considered a reconfigured school and the student population is
            reconstituted for calculation of accountability scores.
       s = Joint school.  School(s) have been combined with another school for accountability
            purposes because the school does not contain both a 4th and 5th grade or both a
            7th and 8th grade.
       w = State Board approved school configuration waiver for calculation of accountability
            scores.
```

7. DATABASE FILES

The database files on this diskette have been developed for use with commercial database or spreadsheet software that recognizes DBF format. Follow the protocol for your specific software to read and manipulate these files. We have observed that commercial database and spreadsheet software handle variables containing "null" or "missing" data differently. Microsoft Excel and Access, for example, display a string of nine's with a zero in the low order digit.

The files, PRS0205.dbf (grades 4/5), PRS0208.dbf (grades 7/8), and PRS0212.dbf (grades 10/11/12) have the same format.

FILE
DESCRIPTION_____

PRS02gg.DBF

This file contains content area academic indexes for the years Spring 1999, Spring 2000, Spring 2001, and Spring 2002.

Field Name   Field Description

CODE   The first three characters are the district number assigned by the Department of
              Education in data operations. The last three characters are the school building
              number. The combined record for Joint schools ends in AAA, AAB, AAC, etc. District
              records have blanks in positions 4 through 6. Region records are 901 through 908 and
              the state record is assigned a code of 999.

REGION   Regional service area that school and district reside in.
               Values are 1-8. Variable is blank in State record.

DISTNAME   District name - all characters are uppercase.

SCHNAME   School name = Characters are upper and lower case.

GRADE   This field contains the accountability grades within the
              school.
              Values in the field are (left justified):
               "04   " - grade 4 (School is part of JOINT school).
               "05   " - grades 5 (School is part of JOINT school).
               "04/05" - grades 4/5
               "07   " - grades 7 (School is part of JOINT school).
               "08   " - grades 8 (School is part of JOINT school).
               "07/08" - grades 7/8
               "10-12" - grades 10/11/12.

REC_TYPE   Indicator that identifies the type of record. Values are:
                "SC" = School
                "DT" = District
                "RG" = Region
                "ST" = State

SPLT_SCH   Joint School indicator.
              Values are:
                R = Regular School
                A = Joint School
                Variable is blank in District, Region, and State records.

SPLC_SCH   Special (School) code assigned to Joint School.
              Values are:
                RRR = Regular School
                AAA = First Joint School in District
                AAB = Second Joint School in District
                AAC = Third Joint School in District
                etc.
                Variable is blank in District, Region and State records.

SPLT_TYP   Type of Joint School.
              Values are:
                R = Regular School
                A = Joint School - combined school record.
                   Contains result information for the schools
                   that are joined.
                B = Joint School - school component record.
                   Identifies schools that are part of the
                   Joint School. Record contains code, school
                   name grade. Accountability data is BLANK.
                Variable is blank in District, Region and State records.

NOTE   Messages indicating school status.
              Possible messages are:

              Blank = no messages; school is normal.

```
a = School's service area changed.  The school is held accountable through the
      district accountability scores.
c = School is accountable though school's scores and district non-academic data for
      the baseline years 1998-1999 and 1999-2000.
d = School is a reconfigured.  The school is held accountable through school
      results and district growth line, district assistance line, and district
      novice reduction rate.
r = School is considered a reconfigured school and the student population is
      reconstituted for calculation of accountability scores.
s = Joint school.  School(s) have been combined with another school for
      accountability purposes because the school does not contain both a 4th and 5th
      grade or both a 7th and 8th grade.
w = State Board approved school configuration waiver for calculation of
      accountability scores.
```

_____ SPRING 1999 Academic Indices follow _____

IDX99_RD   Reading Academic Index - Spring 1999. Format is 8.4.

IDX99_MA   Mathematics Academic Index - Spring 1999. Format is 8.4.

IDX99_SC   Science Academic Index - Spring 1999. Format is 8.4.

IDX99_SS   Social Studies Academic Index - Spring 1999. Format is 8.4.

IDX99_AH   Arts & Humanities Academic Index - Spring 1999. Format is 8.4.

IDX99_PL   Practical Living / Vocational Studies Academic Index - Spring 1999. Format is 8.4.

IDX99_WR   Writing Total (combined On-Demand Writing and Writing Portfolio Academic Index) -
            Spring 1999. Format is 8.4.

IDX_AI99   Total Academic Index - Spring 1999. Format is 5.1.

_____ SPRING 2000 Academic Indices follow _____

IDX00_RD   Reading Academic Index - Spring 2000. Format is 8.4.

IDX00_MA   Mathematics Academic Index - Spring 2000. Format is 8.4.

IDX00_SC   Science Academic Index - Spring 2000. Format is 8.4.

IDX00_SS   Social Studies Academic Index - Spring 2000. Format is 8.4.

IDX00_AH   Arts & Humanities Academic Index - Spring 2000. Format is 8.4.

IDX00_PL   Practical Living / Vocational Studies Academic Index - Spring 2000. Format is 8.4.

IDX00_WR   Writing Total (combined On-Demand Writing and Writing Portfolio) Academic Index -
            Spring 2000. Format is 8.4.

IDX_AI00   Total Academic Index - Spring 2000. Format is 5.1.

* _____ SPRING 2001 Academic Indices follow _____*

IDX01_RD   Reading Academic Index - Spring 2001. Format is 8.4.

IDX01_MA   Mathematics Academic Index - Spring 2001. Format is 8.4.

IDX01_SC   Science Academic Index - Spring 2001. Format is 8.4.

IDX01_SS   Social Studies Academic Index - Spring 2001. Format is 8.4.

IDX01_AH   Arts & Humanities Academic Index - Spring 2001. Format is 8.4.

IDX01_PL   Practical Living / Vocational Studies Academic Index - Spring 2001. Format is 8.4.

IDX01_WR   Writing Total (combined On-Demand Writing and Writing Portfolio) Academic Index -
            Spring 2001. Format is 8.4.

IDX_AI01   Total Academic Index - Spring 2001. Format is 5.1.

              ____ SPRING 2002 Academic Indices follow _____

IDX02_RD   Reading Academic Index - Spring 2002. Format is 8.4.

IDX02_MA   Mathematics Academic Index - Spring 2002. Format is 8.4.

IDX02_SC   Science Academic Index - Spring 2002. Format is 8.4.

IDX02_SS   Social Studies Academic Index - Spring 2002. Format is 8.4.

IDX02_AH   Arts & Humanities Academic Index - Spring 2002. Format is 8.4.

IDX02_PL   Practical Living / Vocational Studies Academic Index - Spring 2002. Format is 8.4.

IDX02_WR   Writing Total (combined On-Demand Writing and Writing Portfolio) Academic Index -
            Spring 2002. Format is 8.4.

IDX_AI02   Total Academic Index - Spring 2002. Format is 5.1.

8.   COMMA SEPERATED FILES

Comma Separated files are structured so that each field is separated by the comma (',')
character. Fields containing commas and string fields are enclosed by double-quotes (""). The
files have the same format and are:
       PRS0205.txt (grades 4/5)
       PRS0208.txt (grades 7/8)
       PRS0212.txt (grades 10/11/12).

Refer to Section 7 – Database files for variable specifications.

9.   TECHNICAL QUESTIONS.

Technical questions about the data format may be addressed to:

       Roger W. Ervin
       Office of Assessment and Accountability,
       Division of Validation and Research

       Telephone: (502) 564-9853
       FAX: (502) 564-7749
       INTERNET Mail: rervin@kde.state.ky.us